

HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2008

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SECOND GRADERS GIVE TOY BEARS TO HFD
BEARS COMFORT CHILDREN DURING STRESSFUL TIMES

WHAT: Shlenker School second graders give toy bears to HFD firefighters

WHEN: 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 13, 2008

WHERE: The Shlenker School, 5600 North Braeswood Blvd. Houston, Texas
77096, between Chimney Rock Road and Hillcroft Ave.,
<http://www.shlenker.org/findus.cfm>

DETAILS: The Shlenker School second-grade class will carry forth a mitzvah on Thursday, March 13, 2008 . The students, seven to eight years old, will honor an ancient tradition of giving to others in a most compassionate way.

From January to March 2008, the students read books and raised \$5,303.00 collectively. The students then went to Build-A-Bear to individually create and name each bear. The bears are donated to the Houston Fire Department to comfort children during a stressful event or ambulance transport, and each includes special wishes for the child who receives it.

This year is the ninth year that the Shlenker School second-grade students will give bears to the Houston Fire Department.

HFD Firefighters will be hand to receive the toy bears and thank the students for their special gifts to console children they may never know. The HFD firefighters carry the toy bears in their vehicles and ambulances and give them to children who are experiencing a tragedy. These very special bears are given to children that are sick, injured or for reassurance during an EMS incident. The stuffed animals provide comfort to the children and help them realize that the firefighters and paramedics are there to help them.